

Landsat Data Continuity Mission Workshop

Data Users Panels

Tuesday, January 9, 2:45-4:45 p.m.

Data Users Panel 1

Participants

Dr. Tony Janetos, World Resources Institute - Moderator

Dr. Fernando Echavarria, Department of State

Dr. Richard Beck, OhioView Consortium

Dr. Brad Doorn, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Joanne Gagrynowicz, University of North Dakota

Summary of the Comments

- The Government has a responsibility to ensure the continuation of the "public good" benefits of the Landsat Program.
- The seasonal, global data derived from the Landsat 7 satellite had become quite valuable to the science, applications, and educational communities.
- It is essential to maintain the open redistribution policy, established under Landsat 7, for the LDCM.
- The lowering of data prices has greatly benefited the science community, but they are still too high especially for global applications.
- The applications of remote sensing data are growing in the Government, commercial, and academic sectors.
- For the LDCM, upgrade the ETM+ instrument in such areas as adding a second TIR band.
- It is important to make Landsat data available to the educational community for teaching the next generation of users (scientists, managers, educators,...).
- The LDCM should maintain the Landsat 7 data policy.
- Review of the 1992 Land Remote Sensing Policy Act and 1998 Commercial Space Act identified the preference for a commercial solution for LDCM; however, the data policy is dependent on the amount of funding provided by the Government. Data from projects paid for entirely by taxpayers dollars have to be made available on a nondiscriminatory basis.
- Landsat data contributed significantly to the data stream that drove assessment and forecasting across the wide spectrum of Government agricultural agencies.
 - There is a need for increased temporal resolution from the current 16-day repeat cycle.
- Landsat is part of a multi-resolution data set that includes both higher resolution data like IKONOS and lower resolution data like MODIS.
- Use the Landsat 7 model (Government owned, Government operated) for the LDCM, why change it.
- Work with other Federal agencies to understand their requirements and solicit their support for the Landsat Program.
- Landsat data is valuable to the science/environmental community, but does not represent a commercially viable market.
- The market for Landsat data is very price sensitive, an increase in prices will reduce demand.
- The U.S. Government needs to establish a long-term, multi-mission Landsat Program that goes beyond the LDCM.
- Landsat 7 data availability and quality are excellent.
- The international ground stations play an important role in the Landsat 7 mission and are needed for the LDCM.

Wednesday, January 10, 8:30 - 10:00 am

Data Users Panel 2

Participants

Dr. Thomas Lillesand, University of Wisconsin - Moderator
 Ms. Mary Pat Santoro, U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center
 Dr. Gordon Wells, Texas Natural Resources Information System
 Dr. Ray Williamson, George Washington University

Summary of the Comments

- Increasing the temporal resolution of Landsat would be very beneficial for many applications.
- Landsat has become the entry point, the advertising, the forgiven venture capital for a chain reaction of commercial spin-offs. ETM+ data is the gateway to a much larger realm of satellite imaging and commercial opportunities.
- Landsat data has far more than a commercial value; it is an indispensable public good and vital capital investment in the Nation's infrastructure.
- The seasonal, global monitoring capabilities of Landsat are important to the military for a variety of national security and humanitarian purposes.
- The ability to freely redistribute Landsat data is important and should be maintained for the LDCM.
- Cost is an important factor in purchasing remote sensing data, the lower the cost the better.
- All levels of image resolution are needed by users to fulfill their missions.
- There is a growing need by many activities, including mapping, planning, disaster response, environmental monitoring, intelligence, science, and education to utilize geographic information systems (GIS). Remote sensing data are just one data set in GIS, but they are becoming a more influential component.
- Landsat data is often placed into a common reference framework (GIS) with other data sets.
- Many organizations are starting to require Landsat data in near real-time, they would like to receive it as soon as possible after it has been acquired.
- The LDCM would benefit from a strong focus on national science and technology education.
- The Landsat Program should externalize system demand to a broader constituency, down to key local power brokers and decision-makers.
- The proliferation of remote sensing systems at the global level suggests a need for a formal international framework. There are several advantages to the United States to support a formal international consortium for managing projects like the LDCM. These benefits would include a lower U.S. Government capital investment, promotion of earth observation data use within the international community, incentives for value-added firms, greater system robustness (i.e., smaller risk from single-satellite failure), better data exchange, and perhaps enhanced international ground station participation. An international effort promises a more robust, reliable system for obtaining and processing geospatial data.
- An international consortium should be pursued, but the barriers to such a consortium are more political than technical or legal. This approach may be more valid in the post-LDCM timeframe.
- The LDCM team should work within the Federal community to understand their requirements and solicit their support for the Landsat Program.
- Landsat data could be viewed as the "entry point" into the field of remote sensing and users of Landsat data will also be purchasing commercial data.

Data Users Panel Breakout Session

Wednesday, January 10, afternoon

Participants

Dr. Bruce Quirk, U.S. Geological Survey (Moderator)
 Dr. Richard Beck, OhioView
 Dr. Brad Doorn, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Panel 1)
 Dr. Joanne Gabrynowicz, University of North Dakota (Panel 1)
 Dr. Thomas Lillesand, University of Wisconsin (Panel 2)

Ms. Mary Pat Santoro, Army Topographic Engineering Center (Panel 2)
 Dr. Gordon Wells, Texas Natural Resources Information Center (Panel 2)
 Dr. Aviva Brecher, U.S. Department of Transportation
 Dr. Bruce Davis, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 Dr. Jerry Garegnani, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

Summary of the Comments

- The LDCM should continue the data policy already established for the Landsat 7 Mission.
- The LDCM should also continue with the Landsat 7 pricing structure at a minimum, but investigate how to lower data prices.
- The LDCM should continue to acquire a seasonal, global data set similar to what the Long Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) produces for Landsat 7.
- The TIR band(s) should be continued on the LDCM, but an investigation into the cost and applications should be conducted.
- Shortening the revisit time, for example from 16 days to 8 days, would benefit the Landsat user community.
- The possibility of having more than one instrument onboard LDCM should be investigated.
- LDCM data delivery times of 3 to 24 hours are required. Delivering data in near real-time will stimulate new applications in such areas as emergency management.
- The commercial niche for LDCM might be in the value-added sector rather than with the data providers.
- The LDCM must maintain high quality data at the lowest cost possible.
- The international ground station network should be maintained or expanded for the LDCM.
- The U.S. Government needs to develop a long-term satellite remote sensing program that includes Landsat.
- There is an interest in participating in follow on discussions or an additional workshop on the LDCM.